

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NIC-01 AGR-20

PC-04 AID-20 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 061258Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: AFRICAN STRIKES CONTINUE TO HIT NATAL

REF: DURBAN A-19 AND PREVIOUS

1. AFRICAN STRIKES ARE CONTINUING PLAGUE NATAL INDUSTRY WITH FIVE NEW WALKOUTS REPORTED IN LAST SEVEN DAYS. MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE LATEST OCCURRENCES AT LEYLAND MOTORS DURBAN PLANT WHERE ENTIRESAFRICAN WORK FORCE WENT ON STRIKE DEMANDING WORKER REFERENDUM ON ISSUE AFRICAN UNION RECOGNITION. MANAGEMENT INITIALLY REACTED HARSHLY AGAINST STRIKING WORKERS FIRING ALL BUT TEN AFRICAN WORKERS AND ADVERTISING FOR RECRUITMENT NEW STAFF, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED MEET WITH UNION SECRETARY ALPHEUS MTHETHWA. MANAGEMENT INDICATED REFUSAL RECOGNIZE UNION BASED ON COMPLIANCE WITH SAG LABOR POLICY WHICH THEY ALLEGED DID NOT PERMIT RECOGNITION UNREGISTERABLE  
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UNIONS. OUTCOME OF MEETING YET UNKNOWN BUT LEYLAND HAS

INDICATED WILLINGNESS REEMPLOY AFRICAN WORKERS WHO WILLING TO RESTART WORK.

2. AFRICAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ALSO WENT ON STRIKE AT BUILDING SITE NEW R11 MILLION AFRICAN DORMITORY COMPLEX AT CLERMONT TOWNSHIP IN KWAZULU NEAR DURBAN DEMANDING WAGES BE DOUBLED TO R1.20 PER HOUR. AS DORMITORY SITE IN AFRICAN HOMELAND AFRICANS PERMITTED BE EMPLOYED ON PROJECT AS ARTISANS AS WELL AS LABORERS. STRIKES ALSO BROKE OUT AT THREE NATAL TEXTILE MILLS INCLUDING DANO MILLS NEW GERMANY. LATTER WAS SETTLED ONLY FOLLOWING INTERVENTION KWAZULU COUNCILLOR BARNEY DLADLA WHO CONVINCED WORKERS RETURN WORK AND NEGOTIATE GRIEVANCES.

3. COMMENT: PACE OF STRIKES OCCURRING ONE AFTER ANOTHER INDICATES GROWING RESTLESSNESS AMONG NATAL'S PRINCIPALLY ZULU WORK FORCE, THE FAILURE OF WORKS COMMITTEE APPROACH TO SATISFY AFRICAN WORKERS DEMANDS AND INCREASED AFRICAN UNION ACTIVITY. WHILE BANNINGS OF BOLTON HALL FOUR WAS STAGGERING BLOW NATAL AFRICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, REPLACEMENTS FOR THEM HAVE BEEN FOUND AND WORK CONTINUES ON AFRICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION EFFORT. ESTABLISHED AFRICAN UNIONS ALSO MANIFESTING NEW BOLDNESS IN DEMANDING RECOGNITION THEIR ROLE AS DE FACTO REPRESENTATIVES AFRICAN WORKERS. THEY RECENTLY OBTAINED SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH AT LARGE NATAL BRITISH TEXTILE FIRM, SMITH AND NEPHEW, WHICH AGREED NEGOTIATE LABOR CONTRACT WITH AFRICAN TEXTILE WORKERS UNION. STRIKE AT LEYLAND WAS BASED SOLELY ON QUESTION UNION RECOGNITION. LEYLAND APPARENTLY CHOSEN AS TEST CASE AS PARENT BRITISH LEYLAND CHAIRMAN LORD STOKES, CURRENTLY VISITING SOUTH AFRICA AND IN ANTICIPATION GROWING PRESSURE ON BRITISH SOUTH AFRICAN SUBSIDIARIES FROM NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN.  
HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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